

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1073

By Gilmore

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Marc H. Morial,
President and Chief Executive Officer of the
National Urban League.

WHEREAS, this body takes great pride in honoring those distinguished national leaders who have worked tirelessly during their lifetime to improve the quality of life for their fellow citizens in numerous capacities across this great Nation; and

WHEREAS, such an illustrious individual is Marc H. Morial, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Urban League, the largest civil rights organization in the country; and

WHEREAS, successful in the business world, as an entrepreneur, and in the political realm, as a former Louisiana State Senator and Mayor of New Orleans, Mr. Morial has displayed a resolute and determined focus on assisting those in need and working for the greater good; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Economics and African-American Studies, Marc Morial also holds a law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D. C., as well as honorary degrees from Xavier University, Wilberforce University, and the University of South Carolina Upstate; and

WHEREAS, highly motivated even as a young man, he started his first of several small business ventures, a janitorial service, at the age of fifteen with two childhood friends and later established an apparel wholesale company and a special events company; and

WHEREAS, after obtaining his legal degree, Mr. Morial won the Louisiana State Bar Association's Pro Bono Publico Award for his legal service for the poor and disadvantaged; he

was also one of the youngest lawyers, at the age of twenty-six, to ever argue and win a major case before the Louisiana Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, he has also shared his knowledge of the law with students at Xavier University, where he taught courses on Constitutional Law and Business Law; and

WHEREAS, humbly offering himself to public office, Marc Morial ably served the good people of Louisiana as a State Senator, winning acclaim for his service as evidenced by his recognition as Legislative Rookie of the Year, Education Senator of the Year, and Environmental Senator of the Year, while authoring laws on a wide range of important matters; and

WHEREAS, during his remarkable tenure as Mayor of New Orleans, Marc H. Morial was a popular chief executive with a broad multi-racial coalition who led that city's 1990's renaissance. As Mayor, Marc Morial also oversaw the most dramatic growth in the city's economy in over twenty years; and

WHEREAS, selected by his peers, Mr. Morial served as President of the bi-partisan U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) during the 9/11 Crisis and championed the creation of the Department of Homeland Security and the Federalization of airport security screeners, winning the organization unparalleled visibility and prominence; and

WHEREAS, President of the National Urban League since 2003, Marc Morial has been the primary catalyst for an era of change – a transformation for the nearly 100 year old civil rights organization – expanding the League's work around an empowerment agenda, which is redefining civil rights for the 21st Century; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership the National Urban League has undertaken a number of new initiatives, including the Urban Youth Empowerment Program and Entrepreneurship Centers, in addition to establishing the National Urban League Empowerment Fund; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Marc Morial has been recognized as one of the 100 most influential Black Americans by *Ebony* magazine and named as one of the Top 50 Nonprofit Executives by the *Nonprofit Times*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Morial is a member of the Executive Committee of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the Black Leadership Forum, and Leadership 18, and is a Board

Member of the Muhammad Ali Center, and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Marc H. Morial for his many years of distinguished service to the citizens of this Nation, applaud his success as President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Urban League, and extend our best wishes for much continued success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.